



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Potential Early Learning Enhancement Grant Applicants

FROM: Lisa Brewer-Walraven, Director
Division of Child Development and Care
Office of Great Start

DATE: March 12, 2013

SUBJECT: Early Learning Enhancement Grant Funds Available for Competition

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to announce the availability of funds for Early Learning Enhancement Grants to support increased access to high quality early learning and development programs for those children with the highest needs prior to kindergarten entry.

This grant will provide Early Learning and Development Programs with an opportunity to utilize multiple sources of early childhood funding to create continuity of care in a full time, full year setting with the goal of increasing the number of high needs children in quality early learning and development programs.

Research shows that young children who receive a high quality early learning experience from infancy to age five do better in reading and math and are more likely to stay in school longer, graduate from high school, and attend a four-year college. In Michigan, most high-quality early care and education programs do not have the financial resources to offer high-quality, full-day services year-round. When programs seek to layer funding from the Child Development and Care (CDC) Program, Head Start and the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), current policies and funding levels hinder success. This initiative aims to address these problems through coordinating the provision of full day, full year child care subsidy reimbursement to qualifying high quality programs, as assessed by the program's achieved rating in Great Start to Quality, Michigan's Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System, with the alignment of policies with those of other funding streams and private sector practice.

The Office of Great Start will be awarding two year grants through a competitive grant award process with up to \$1,250,000 available in each FY2014 and FY2015 for a total of \$2,500,000 available over the two year grant period.

A technical assistance webinar will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Individuals planning to participate in this webinar should register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4649554647198602240>. **THIS WEBINAR IS FULL AND IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE. PLEASE SEE SECOND WEBINAR BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION.**

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A technical assistance webinar will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Individuals planning to participate in this webinar should register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/161755237786015744>.

Grant instructions and the application and budget template, are posted on-line at www.michigan.gov/greatstart.

The deadline for submitting a proposal is **5:00 p.m., April 23, 2013**. Questions can be directed to the Office of Great Start/Division of Child Development and Care at CoolmanT@michigan.gov.